

DOA Daily Insider Content : Feb. 1—28, 2014

Human Relations Commission - February Spotlight

On a cold Wednesday morning in January, the Human Relations Commission (HRC) staff of nine people met around a large conference table. Over the course of their staff meeting, many tasks were discussed that related to their mission: to advocate, enforce and promote equality of opportunity in the areas of housing, fair employment practices, public accommodations, education, justice and governmental services. HRC staff are a true reflection of the diversity that their mission upholds. Unfortunately, the world we inherited is comprised of people who take advantage of their neighbors through discriminatory and unfair practices; and HRC's mission is to provide education/outreach and training to set things right.



As articulated by HRC Executive Director Emily Williams, their objectives are simple and straightforward, "...to promote equality in North Carolina." Federal and State law bars housing discrimination based on race, color, sex, religion, national origin, familial status (discrimination against adults because of their children), and disability. HRC's role is both to enforce the law and to promote equality by creating an awareness of areas of discrimination through training and community outreach, investigation of discrimination claims, and working with disputing parties to reach a mutually acceptable agreement.

Richard Boulden, Agency Counsel, shared that approximately 85% of their fair housing claims involve allegations of discrimination based on race or disability. In these cases, HRC's goal is to be a "neutral third party" and bring the two disputing parties together to reach an agreement. If no agreement is possible, HRC will investigate the claim and "issue a finding of whether laws have been violated which may result in settlement or civil penalties," Mr. Boulden explained. If the parties cannot reach agreement even after a finding that discrimination has occurred, HRC will enforce the law through litigation.



HRC's role as a neutral third party, instead of an advocate for the complainant, is the source of much hostility directed towards Ms. Valerie Branch, the HRC Intake Specialist. "I receive the complaints usually over the phone and take them to Richard," Ms. Branch explains. "I have to put up with a lot of anger. The complainants get upset if I don't agree with them." The other HRC staff agree that Ms. Branch takes the brunt of the negativity. "A high percentage of complainants aren't satisfied because HRC is a neutral investigator and not their advocate," Mr. Boulden said.

It is important that HRC staff remain neutral and recognize that not every allegation of discrimination is factual. All claimants

believe that they are being objective, but in fact, we all perceive the world through our own subjective circumstances and experiences. As Mr. Phillip Jordan, HRC Specialist and Investigator recalls, sometimes perceived racial discrimination is actually just rudeness or a poor customer service experience.

"We had a complainant, a lady, who frequently shopped at a particular department store," Mr. Jordan said. "She alleged racial dis-



crimination because a member of the sales staff completely ignored her on more than one occasion." Mr. Jordan said that he contacted the store and brought the issue to the attention of management. As it turned out, the store clerk in question was an outside vendor that had a history of poor customer service. The store's management was receptive to the issue, apologized and was proactive about updating HRC on their training policies and new training opportunities. This was in sync with one of the many services that HRC provides: training on equality issues in the community.

"We bring government agencies, private employers and outside groups together," said Ms. Mary Curtis, Human Relations Specialist and Investigator. "Agreements between parties often require fair housing training and HRC often recommends annual training sessions." HRC offers proactive training in the community to help communities avoid instances of actual or perceived discrimination. "We train property managers on how to avoid complaints from tenants," said Mr. David Cullom, Program Manager. "Sometimes I think we are training ourselves out of a job," he said with a laugh.

Training doesn't start and stop with employers. HRC has conducted 37 training sessions in the past six months for the approximately 50 city-based and county-based human relations commissions in North Carolina. This was reported by Mr. Gene Troy, Human Relations Specialist, who also works as the Liaison to local commissions. "We have received great feedback that is over 92% positive," Mr. Troy said. HRC's outreach crosses cultural and linguistic boundaries too. Tania Valero, Human Relations Specialist and Hispanic Claims Investigator, is tasked with managing Spanish-language complainants, and providing education and outreach into the Hispanic community. She also serves on the Governor's Commission for Hispanic Affairs. "We are often the agency of last resort for Hispanic people calling for help," said Ms. Valero. Mr. Boulden concurred by saying, "people are given the run-around and we provide guidance, community outreach and assistance."



As Mr. Boulden previously mentioned, most of HRC's complaints are fair housing claims, where a tenant believes that he or she has been discriminated against by a landlord because of his or her race, sex or disability. Mr. David Cauthorn, HRC Specialist and Investigator, explained that a disabled complainant may allege that there aren't reasonable accommodations for a disabled person at a residential facility, but the requested accommodation must be reasonable. "The complainant's request must be reasonable, not an undue burden and a connection must exist between the request and the disability," he said. One possible accommodation by a

landlord, Mr. Cauthorn suggested, would be to transfer a mobility-impaired tenant from the second to the ground floor. I asked for a specific example of a situation where fair housing laws were violated and the example provided by another HRC staff member did not disappoint.



"While it is not a typical case, there was the time that a landlord sexually harassed a tenant," said Mr. Gene Troy. "The tenant caught the landlord on video dropping his pants! The video-recorded incident wasn't the first time the landlord tried to solicit 'relations' in lieu of rent, and the female tenant simply set her phone near her purse and hit record as he approached." A more common landlord tenant dispute arises over what are known as "therapy pets."

The law requires landlords to make reasonable accommodation for therapy animals, even if they have a No Pets policy. The rule

is that the animal, usually one, must be of the appropriate type and be based on a physician's or therapist's recommendation. It was made clear by HRC staff that the landlord isn't required to shelter unusual animals, like a wolf, and you can't "fill your home



wall-to-wall with animals." Apparently at some point this has been attempted, because Mr. Boulden shared a story of a hapless individual that sought assistance against a stubborn landlord for a multiple therapy animal accommodation.

"That's right, a man came into our office on more than one occasion pushing a baby carriage full of rabbits," Mr. Boulden said. "Well, he showed-up with one or more rabbits and pled his case of how his landlord discriminated against him and his rabbits. He came back every few months for over three years. The last time was just six months ago."

It may not be likely that the HRC staff alone can rid the world of discrimination and unjust practices. But they do provide a valuable safety valve in North Carolina's communities where people who believe that they have been unfairly discriminated against have an outlet to address their grievances. It is important to remember that we inherited this world and its problems; and that, one day, we will pass it on to the next generation. When the next generation asks whether we solved more problems that we created, what will we say? After the HRC staff assembled around that conference room table and reported on the positive results of their mission for equality, I think that they will be able to say, "Yes, we've solved more problems than we created. We've helped make North Carolina's communities a better place to live."

Human Relations Commission

Secretary Addresses Commission and New Board Member is Sworn-In

February 5

Secretary Daughtridge addressed members of the Human Relations Commission during their January meeting. Afterward, a new board member, Warren Turner from Charlotte, NC, was sworn-in to serve on the Commission by NC Supreme Court Justice Paul Newby.



Human Relations Commission - Emily Williams (Blog)

HRC Honors the Memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and His Vision

February 5

On Friday, January 17, the State of North Carolina honored the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., with its annual Let Freedom Ring bell ringing ceremony and State Employees Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Observance Program/John R. Larkins Award Ceremony.

The NC Human Relations Commission, along with members of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission, DOA Secretary Bill Daughtridge, Dr. Dion Terry, Special Assistant to Governor McCrory, and the FY 2014 Martin Luther King, Jr. grantees participated in these services.

MLK Commission Chairman, Clarence Henderson, presided over the bell ringing ceremony, noting that, "Today, in memory of Dr. King and his vision, we will ring the liberty bell to signal that our lives should be lived in faith and harmony, and, as Dr. King stated, not based on the color of our skin but on the content of our character."

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During the bell ringing service, DOA Secretary Daughtride reflected on his personal and professional relationship with Franklin McCain, one of the "Greensboro Four" students, who, in 1960, sat and ordered coffee at the lunch counter in Woolworth's in Greensboro. HRC Executive Director discussed the Content of Character theme for this year's Martin Luther King programs and recognized the four FY 2014 Martin Luther King, Jr. grantees. Dr. Dion Terry, Special Advisor to Governor McCrory, delivered the State of NC's 2014 Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Proclamation.

The bell ringing event was followed by the annual State Employees' Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Observance Program/John R. Larkins Award Ceremony, which took place at 12:00 p.m. at First Baptist Church, 99 N. Salisbury St., Raleigh. During this service, I had the privilege to speak about the importance of this memorial service. I shared NCHRC's focus on reaching children under 14 years of age, with the purpose of ensuring that they understood Dr. King's vision and his Content of Character message. DOA Secretary Bill Daughtride discussed former State employee John R. Larkins and his impact on social issues in the 1960s. Secretary Daughtride awarded the John R. Larkins Award to Mary Farrar, a Claims Investigator in the Department of Public Safety, because of Mary's continual commitment to serving her fellow man and the community. Governor Pat McCrory, who issued a 2014 MLK Day Proclamation, discussed Content of Character as "Doing what is right, when no one is looking," and shared examples of three State employees who exemplified this vision.

Thank you to everyone who helped make the Bell Ringing and Observance a successful tribute to the life and legacy of Dr. King.

Historically Underutilized Businesses

Governor Attends HUB Advisory Council Meeting

February 5

Governor McCrory met with Secretary Daughtride, HUB staff and business leaders from throughout the state in January for the inaugural meeting and swearing-in of the Governor's Advisory Council on Small and Historically Underutilized Businesses.

Previously, this council had been filled with state agency employees. The governor signed Executive Order No. 24 in September 2013 to change this so that businessmen and women would comprise the majority of the council.

"My administration is dedicated to making North Carolina a more business-friendly state, especially for businesses that have been historically underutilized," said Governor McCrory. "Small businesses are the backbone of our economy and deserve the same access to opportunities for growth that other companies have."



The Governor charged members with using their depth of understanding of the business community in North Carolina to help shape policies that will support and build up small businesses. He reminded members that one of the main goals of the council was to identify and scrutinize barriers that inhibit access to state contract and procurement opportunities. The council will provide guidance and insight to Governor McCrory, Secretary Daughtride and to the HUB Office.

This event received significant coverage in the news media by the Triangle Business Journal, News & Observer and NBC-17.

Historically Underutilized Businesses - Dennis English (Blog)

Governor's Council on Small and Historically Underutilized Businesses

February 18



People from all over the state were calling on the day of the meeting in January to make sure that snow in the weather forecast hadn't managed to cancel the Governor's Advisory Council on Small and Historically Underutilized Businesses. The swearing-in ceremony and inaugural meeting was set for Raleigh's biggest snow day of the year! With all the work that had gone into the planning of that meeting and with the Governor in attendance – canceling just didn't seem fair!

So, the glass lined room on the top floor of the DENR building was absolutely packed with excited new council members, proud family members, DOA personnel, the Governor's support staff, print media and television reporters – as the bad weather was thankfully holding off.

Everyone's remarks were focused and hopeful, especially the Governor, who delivered some great news about our growing economy. Justice Newby brought some levity to an otherwise serious meeting where the council members were charged with addressing four key issues to help small and HUB firms grow: identifying barriers, increasing the use of technology, evaluating

data, and identifying opportunities.

Thankfully the event went off without a hitch and it was great to be at the apex of history in the making!

Governor's Advisory Council on Small and Historically Underutilized Businesses - Kat Woods (Blog)

February 21



The Governor's Advisory Council on Small and Historically Underutilized Businesses met for the second time earlier this week, in the ultra-modern offices of Turner Construction in Charlotte. The atmosphere in the room is electric as members excitedly discussed their findings from the research they had done during the past month. Each of the four subcommittees (Cabinet Agency Partnerships/Opportunities, Evaluations, Needs and Assessments, and Technology) gave both written and oral presentations of their progress.

The Chairman praised the members for their hard work and then pointed them to Executive Order #24 for guidance on the scope of their projects. Even though the meeting ran over, the enthusiasm did too, and members stayed late to continue their discussions. Such a spirited group with the common goal of empowering small and historically underutilized businesses – the agenda is already full for the next meeting!

Even Sir Walter Raleigh will be Wearing Red

The Council for Women in partnership with the NC State Health Plan, NC Office of State Human Resources, Minority Women's Health Project and American Heart Association, will host Go Red to promote heart disease awareness. Join us on Friday, February 7, as we learn more about heart disease, hear inspirational stories, and learn about leading a heart healthy life. Participants are encouraged to wear red to support heart disease awareness. The event is free to the public.



Council for Women - Gale McKoy Wilkins (Blog)

Go Red for Women Event to Fight Heart Disease

February 5



As executive director of the Council, I resolve to take better care of my health, and balance my passion for helping women with a commitment to exercise more and adopt a heart healthy life.

I know that women have the power to save our lives if we truly believe our health is non-negotiable.

"Many women do everything to take care of their family members, friends and co-workers, while putting their own exercise routine, healthy meals and doctor appointments on the back burner."

"It's not too late to make an appointment with the doctor and start to make changes for a healthier lifestyle that will strengthen your heart. You can keep taking care of your family and friends by taking care of yourself too," said First Lady Ann McCrory.

Join me, First Lady Ann McCrory, Mrs. Alice Forest, wife of the N.C. Lieutenant Governor, and the Council for Women in supporting the 'Go Red' campaign. The Council is helping women build awareness of heart health strategies by partnering with the American Heart Association (AHA) and other state agencies to sponsor "Go Red," an awareness and education event, on February 7 in downtown Raleigh. Visit www.councilforwomen.nc.gov to view the schedule of activities and register.

I encourage you to learn more about preventing heart disease. According to the AHA website cardiovascular disease (CVD) is the No. 1 killer of all Americans. In fact, someone dies from CVD every 39 seconds! Heart disease also kills more women than all forms of cancer combined. And congenital cardiovascular defects are the most common cause of infant death from birth defects. Learn the facts and save your life.

Go Red Event - Gale McKoy Wilkins (Blog)

February 14

Until you hear that a thirty-two year old woman had not one but three heart attacks before the age of forty, it may not register how prevalent heart disease is in the United States. The Go Red for Women event is the American Heart Association's campaign to raise awareness about the issue. The recently released Status of Women in North Carolina report highlighted the mortality rate of women who have heart disease and that motivated our division to join the Go Red campaign.

The Council was joined by the American Heart Association, Minority Women's Health Project, NC State Health Plan and the NC Office of State Human Resources in creating a statewide event. Dr. Kimberly S. Yarnall provided great information on how to prevent heart disease and answered the audience's questions. Wade Harris (Raleigh Personal Training) demonstrated that exercising doesn't require a gym membership as he led the audience through a workout routine that only requires a chair.



Jeff Hadley's Spinach Salad with Pork & Pears recipe proves that healthy eating can be tasty! Antoinette Martin presented Oatmeal cookies and Gourmet Truffles with no cane sugar – simply amazing! The recipes are on the Council's website for your convenience (www.councilforwomen.nc.gov/).

Several women appeared in the Go Red fashion show which celebrated heart disease survivors as the audience heard how they changed their lifestyles to improve their health. Marietta Wagner, a thirty-two year old who survived three heart attacks, stopped smoking, lost weight and works with WomenHeart to help educate women about the dangers of heart disease.

Let's take small steps towards a heart healthy life. It's worth it!



State Property Office - Tim Walton (Blog)

Oregon Inlet Task Force

February 7

Performing the function of Business Manager for the State of North Carolina, the Secretary's attention is drawn to every corner of the State. Yesterday, I supported Secretary Daughtridge as he served as Chair of a committee of legislators and other appointees to study the acquisition of land adjacent to the Oregon Inlet near Manteo. We held a successful meeting and look forward to addressing Outer Banks residents' needs and serving the interest of the State of North Carolina.



Commission of Indian Affairs - Greg Richardson (Blog)

Federal Recognition Conference at Arizona State University

February 10



In January, I had the opportunity to attend a very historic conference in Phoenix, Arizona. The conference was held at Arizona State University and provided a unique opportunity to give input into a very important national issue that affects seven of the eight tribes in North Carolina.

During the conference, key tribal leaders, tribal members, and other officials from across the United States were called upon to provide feedback regarding the current federal recognition process and procedure used to recognize Indian tribes. Conference planners specifically sought -out individuals who had direct exposure and experience with the federal recognition process, which are used by the federal government to grant federal recognition to non-federally recognized Indian tribes. The conference provided an excellent forum through which this subject could be discussed and to reflect upon the challenges non-federally recognized tribes face during their plight to become federally recognized. I also served as a panelist and provided information about the NC Commission of Indian Affairs, the program and services administered by

the Commission, and the resources that are available to non-federally recognized tribes in the United States.

I was extremely honored to have had the opportunity to participate in this history making conference and want to thank Arizona State University, the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law, and the ASU Indian Legal Clinic for inviting me to the conference and for covering all travel expenses associated with my attendance.

Facility Management Division

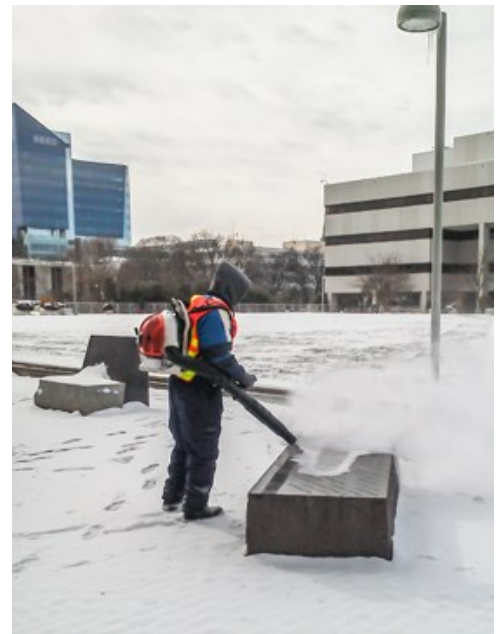
Facility Management Keeps State Govt. Working During Winter Storm February 5

Facility Management is winding down its three day defense against extreme winter weather and has done an excellent job. Over 1,000 gallons of salt brine, 8 tons of salt, and 45 men and women were deployed to protect the State Government Capitol Complex and the surrounding area against the adverse weather that pummeled Raleigh over the past 48 hours.



"Facility Management has done a remarkable job at keeping State government operating safely and efficiently," said Secretary Daughtridge. "We ask them to do more with fewer resources and they continually go above and beyond the call of duty."

Please visit the [DOA Facebook page](#) to view the photo album of all of their work. And "Like" us while you're there!



Preparing for Ice and Snow

February 11

Monday, Facility Management Division was preparing for the potential snow and wintry mix forecasted for the coming days. Brine, a water and salt mixture, is being applied to parking lots, walkways and other commuter areas around State government. In the event of ice and snow, please be careful and notify Facility Management of any trouble spots needing attention: 919-733-3514.





Secretary's Office

DOA Wins Three Awards for Giving to the 2013 State Employees Combined Campaign

February 19

On February 18, Governor Pat McCrory and staff from the State Employees Combined Campaign (SECC) recognized DOA employees for their generosity with three awards. DOA employees won: the Gold Chairman's Award for giving at the highest per capita level for a Department with 500-999 employees; the Growth in Giving Award for an overall increase in giving; and the Growth in Participation Award for an overall increase in the number of donors.

These awards recognize a significant improvement over participation in the 2012 SECC, and provide a benchmark for launching the 2014 SECC which is being chaired by Secretary Daughtridge.

"I would like to say a special thank you to DOA employees for their generous contributions to the SECC in 2013. I look forward to working with all of you and building on our accomplishments for 2014," said Secretary Daughtridge.



DOA's SECC Executives Mary Curtis and Chris Mears (center) accept the Gold Chairman's Award on behalf of DOA employees from Mary Paisley (left) and Secretary Kluttz (right)



Secretary Daughtridge shares his vision as Chairman of the 2014 State Employees Combined Campaign



Secretary Daughtride poses with Governor McCrory and the 2013 State Advisory Committee



Governor McCrory gives his thanks to all state employees who contributed to the 2013 SECC



Governor McCrory poses with volunteers from the 2013 SECC

Division of Veterans Affairs - Ilario Pantano (Blog)

As we begin 2014, how can we better serve North Carolina's veterans?

February 5

As we begin 2014, how can we better serve North Carolina's veterans?

Our 800,000 veterans represent more than just a large percentage of our population. They are names, faces, stories, heartbreaks and triumphs in the defense of our nation for over 200 years. Veterans are committed patriots that have willingly chosen to sacrifice for their fellow citizens and as a result of their selflessness, "we the people" have a sacred trust to honor, respect and care for this special population.

The NC Division of Veterans Affairs (NCDVA), under guidance from Secretary Daughtride and Governor McCrory, has undertaken the important mission of "Making North Carolina a More Veteran Friendly State." In accordance with this mission, I would like to share with you that NCDVA has launched an agency-wide effort to be more transparent, data driven and accountable to the veterans, family members and citizens of the State of North Carolina.



Highlights from the four component efforts include:

- INTRA-agency Reform: Reorganizing NCDVA for the 21st Century.
- Re-thinking Strategy & Metrics for success: "Go where the veterans are..."
- Launching new partnerships: VA, DHHS, Nat Guard, DMV, 24/7 Call Center, etc.
- Grow Services AND Cut Costs (HOW? location, location, location)
- INTER-agency Reform: Governors Working Group (monthly meeting), Executive Order, etc.
- Increasing accountability and broadening the dialog with agency stakeholders
- Integrate Gov. Mil. Adv. with joint Commerce, DHHS, DOA, VA efforts
- Communications Plan: Focus on "NC 4 Vets," Women Vets Expo, Events, telling our story, etc.
- Internal marketing and awareness campaign, external campaign with Sponsors
- NCDVA Annual Report: veteran stats and performance metrics (year-on-year)
- Legislative Agenda: Workforce Development, Instate Tuition, Wellness, etc.
- Making the case that we are good stewards, doing more with less
- Reinvest in the programs that pay dividends for the state

Now, you know I was just a simple infantry Marine so I will keep this on point. Our plan for inter-agency reform and the ensuing reorganization boils down to one guiding philosophy: do more with less by "going where the fight is..." (or, for all of the non-ground combat services, translation = going where the veterans are).

Thank you for joining NCDVA in our mission of "Making North Carolina a More Veteran Friendly State."

I remain Semper Fidelis,
 Ilario G. Pantano, Director, NCDVA

Veterans Affairs

North Carolina Veterans Receive Highest French Honor

February 21

The NC Division of Veterans Affairs and Governor Pat McCrory celebrated heroes of World War II (WWII) today with French Consul General Denis Barbet who presented 14 North Carolinians with the Legion of Honor, the highest decoration in France, in a ceremony at the State Capitol.

The award, founded by Napoleon Bonaparte in 1802, recognizes eminent services to the French Republic and recipients are designated by the president of France, Francois Hollande. North Carolina played a prominent role in the US military's effort during WWII. North Carolina lost 8,910 soldiers in WWII, which is highest number of casualties of any modern war or conflict.

The 14 honorees are:

- George F. Tyson Jr., Mebane (Ret. Colonel, L Company, 399th Infantry Regiment, 100th Infantry Division)
- John Salop, Charlotte (Commander, USS. Charles F. Hughes)
- Allen D. Evans, Chapel Hill (Staff Sergeant, Headquarters Battery, 76th Field Artillery Battalion)
- Gerald M. Anderson, Pinehurst (Sergeant, 16th Regiment, 1st Infantry Division)
- Jessie O. Bowman, Granite Falls (Sergeant, 345th Regiment, 87th Infantry Division)
- Carl R. Britt, Conway (Sergeant, 274th Infantry Regiment, 70th Division)
- Donald F. Johnston, Cary (Sergeant, Company L, 410th Infantry Regiment, 103rd Division)
- Joseph H. Collie, Durham (Corporal, Company B, 397th Infantry)
- James W. Toffton, Rock Mount (Corporal, 555th Signal Aircraft Warning Battalion)
- Norwood McKoy, Wilmington (Technician 5th Grade, 192nd Chemical Deploy Company)
- Joseph Q. Dickerson, Murfreesboro (Private First Class, Company E, 116th Infantry)
- Richard L. Hammel, Murfreesboro (Private First Class, 517th Parachute Infantry Regiment)
- Paul E. Haney, Reidsville (Private First Class, 80th Cavalry Reconnaissance troop)
- James F. Sansom, Cary (Private First Class, 1560th Service Command Unit Station Complement)

To see facts about North Carolina's participation in WWII, please visit

www.ncdcr.gov/ncmoh/NCatHomeandBattleduringWWIIstats.aspx.

(Photos Continued on Next Page)



France's Legion of Honor, the highest decoration in France, ready to be pinned on NC WWII Veterans



Director of Veterans Affairs, Ilario Pantano, greets WWII veterans at the ceremony.



Director of Veterans Affairs, Ilario Pantano, greets a WWII veteran at the ceremony.



The color guard places the US and French Flags as the ceremony begins.



Director of Veterans Affairs, Ilario Pantano, addressing the attendees during the ceremony.



French Consul General, Denis Barbet, pins the Legion of Honor on one of the 14 NC WWII veterans.



Youth Advocacy and Involvement Office

Stephanie Nantz Finalist for Larkins Award

February 5

Congratulations to Stephanie Nantz, YAIO Director, who was chosen as one of the top four finalists for the John R. Larkins Award.



SADD Grants Given to NC High Schools

February 5

Five Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) chapters received \$25,000 grants from State Farm Celebrate My Drive Program. The SADD program promoted this grant opportunity to the local SADD Chapters for three consecutive months and provided technical assistance which resulted in \$125,000 in grant awards to SADD chapters. The recipients are as follows: Avery High School in Newland, Butler High School in Matthews; Hough High School in Cornelius; Page High School in Greensboro; and Wakefield High School in Raleigh.



Great job students!

Savannah Rae Turns Two- Stephanie Nantz (Blog)

February 27

I wanted to share with my friends and colleagues that my daughter, Savannah Rae, recently turned two-years-old!





Youth Advocacy and Involvement Office - Cynthia Giles (Blog)

State Youth Council at Your Service

February 5



On January 24-26, the State Youth Council held the 2014 Service Learning Conference hosted by the Raleigh Youth Council. 70 students from nine local Youth Councils (Raleigh, Cary, Concord, Durham, Goldsboro, High Point, Rocky Mount, Salisbury and Winston Salem) attended. Youth participated and were engaged in five different community service projects on Saturday morning. The purpose of this conference was to provide opportunities that enabled youth participation in a joint service and educate youth on the importance of making contributions to their communities.

Youth were engaged in projects at the following organizations:

Glenaire (a continuing care retirement community in Cary): Youth assisted with the STAVE Program by helping senior citizens participate in exercise/movement based therapy.

Helping Hand Mission Inc. (assists families on a one-on-one basis with food, clothing, furniture, and shelter): Youth sorted donations, stocked items in the food pantry, and served meals.

North Raleigh Ministries (provides neighbors in crisis with necessary assistance with food and/or emergency financial Assistance): Youth sorted and organized clothes for the Thrift Store.

PLM Families Together (provides housing and comprehensive services for families experiencing homelessness in Wake County): Youth restocked shelves with donated items, made inspirational cards for families and assisted with organizing files.

Pullen Park: After lunch they all came back together for a beautification project at Pullen Park.

One youth stated "I actually learned how to spread mulch."

When asked what did you like most about the conference, one youth stated "Dancing with Senior Citizens."

Youth Councils also brought canned goods to be donated to the Food Bank of Central and Eastern NC.





Office of Fiscal Management

New Hire

February 5

Please join me in welcoming Amy Ferrell to the Office of Fiscal Management as our new Cash Management Accountant. Amy has over four years of State Government experience and brings expertise in Cash Management, work automation and improvement of efficiency, collection of past due receivables, and internal controls. Welcome aboard Amy!



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